

out of the pockets of the Liverpool people would have constituted a very handsome instalment for yearly expenditure in public improvements.

Stockport.—The plans and specifications of the projected new bridges over the Gait and Mersey, according to the local *Advertiser*, have been fixed in the committee-room of the court, for inspection prior to a final selection by the Manorial Tolls Committee. The names of those who have forwarded plans, &c. (sixteen in number), are as follow:—Messrs. Edward and Bryan Jones, Chester; Stevens and Park, Macclesfield; Henry and S. Bann, Stockport; Dudge and Stephenson, London; M. T. Crapley, Leeds; Cameron and Co. Leeds; Nicholson and Tons, Newcastle; Williamson and Roberts, Stockport; Walter Mahon, Manchester; J. B. and E. Birch, London; James Heywood, Derby; James Bramble, Manchester; Charles V. Cawley, Manchester; Fox, Henderson, and Co. Birmingham; Henry Law, London; and Joseph Butler and Co. Staningley, near Leeds. All the plans are for iron bridges except the two sent by the Stockport architects.

Rotherham.—The first stone of the Rotherham and Masborough Literary and Mechanics' Institution and Public Rooms was laid on Thursday in last week. The building will be of stone, in the Italian style of architecture. The site is at the corner of Howard street and Easingham street, and immediately adjoining the new Savings Bank, and near the Court-house. On the ground-floor it will contain a lecture-room, in the amphitheatrical style, 42 feet by 26 feet; a reading-room, 21 feet diameter; library, 14 feet by 12 feet; two class-rooms, two laboratories, kitchen, and housekeeper's room. On the second-floor there will be a concert and assembly room, 61 feet by 42 feet; retiring-rooms, news-room, 21 feet diameter, &c. There is a gallery to the concert-room, ascended by a geometrical staircase from the street. The funds for the erection of the building, which it is estimated will cost 1,700*l.* are raised by 1*l.* shares, the whole of which are guaranteed.

Derby.—On Wednesday in last week, a new organ, built by Messrs. Foster and Andrews, of Hull, for the church of St. Peter's, Derby, was publicly opened. The instrument has been erected in the chancel near to the choir, and, it is said, does not interfere with the general appearance of this part of the edifice. It is on what is called the German scale, having a compass from C C to G in alto, fifty-six notes, running through two sets of keys, and a pedal-board of two octaves and a half. The swell is on a new principle for reflecting sound, introduced by the makers about two years ago.

Buxton.—New streets are being formed, and a spirit of general improvement appears to be awakening at Buxton.

Blackburn.—The front part of the roof of a house in Darwen-street has fallen in, fortunately without loss of life or limb. The building, like many in the same locality, is of old date.

Ross.—At a recent vestry meeting it was intimated that Mr. Bucklee, of Oxford, architect, had minutely examined the spire, and had reported—1st, that the upper portion was in a highly dangerous condition, and must be taken down and rebuilt; 2nd, that the remaining part of the spire much needed repair, together with the pinnacles, two of which are dangerous; and 3rd, that the whole of the tower was in want of certain repairs, not of immediate importance. It had been resolved at a previous meeting that the first part should be at once proceeded with, and tenders were consequently advertised for. The second part was decided on by the meeting then present. The chairman opened the several tenders, which were as follows:—

	1st Part.	2nd Part.	Total.
Messrs. Cartwright and Nash, Lincolnshire	4200	2100	6300
Charles Walker, Lymington	3000	300	3300
John Shaw and Son, Lymington	—	—	—
Colman and Co. Chichester	—	—	—
Henry, Gloucestershire	417	170	587
Pearson and Son, Ross	280	180	460

Messrs. Pearson's tender was accepted for the first part of this work. A sinking rate, to

defray the cost of the restoration and repair, was then agreed to.

Chester.—The consecration of the new church of Holy Trinity at Chester, near Newcastle-under-Lyne, according to the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, took place on Thursday week, the Bishop of Lichfield officiating. The church is Early English in style, and has been erected from the designs of Messrs. Ward and Son, of Hunsley, architects, by Messrs. A. and G. Hobme, of Liverpool, contractors. The accommodation is for 495, including children (there are no galleries). Cost, about 2,000*l.* The site was the gift of Mr. Ralph Sneyd, and comprises a churchyard and land for a parsonage-house. The structure consists of a nave, 62½ feet long by 21 feet wide; north aisle, the same length and 10½ feet wide; south aisle, or children's chapel, 26½ feet long by 14½ feet wide; and a steeple adjoining it, which serves as the porch and principal entrance; a chancel, 28½ feet long by 15½ feet wide; and a chancel aisle, comprising a small side-chapel and a vestry. The steeple, which is surmounted by a spire, rises to a height of 110 feet, to the top of the stonework, above which are a metal cross and a weather-rock. Internally, it is open to the nave and children's chapel by stone arches. The church has buttresses all round. The gables have stone crosses on them. The various portions of the church internally are divided from each other by arches, with cylindrical and octagonal pillars to support them wrought in stone. The windows are mostly lancets. The eastern window is of three lights, with a triangular one over them filled with tracery. A similar arrangement, with two windows and a triangular one over, is adopted at the west end. The end of the children's chapel has a large three-light window enclosed under one arch. All the windows have large plays internally. The walls, as well as the pillars, and arches, windows, and doorways, &c. inside, are of red sandstone, from a quarry in the village. The roofs are covered with blue tiles from Mr. Moss's works. The aisles, steeple, and chancel are laid with tiles given by Mr. Minton, except those in the north aisle, which are the gift of Mr. Sale. The floor within the communion rail is laid with parquetry of oak and walnut of a star pattern laid crossways; it was supplied by Messrs. Steinits and Co. of London. The roofs are of open timber (chancel roof boarded), stained and varnished; as are also the seats throughout, which are low and open. One of the eastern windows of the chancel is of stained glass, by Wailes, the gift of the late incumbent of the district, the Rev. S. S. Smith. The architects were Messrs. Ward.

THE BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, the 18th inst. an excursion was made to Workop and Clumber: to the first to see the fine Norman Church there, and Abbey Gateway; and to the second, to visit the president, the Duke of Newcastle. In the evening a meeting was held at Newark, where papers were read on "Early Burial Places in Notts," by Mr. Bateman; on "Sepulchral Urns at Newark," by Rev. Geo. Milner; on the "Ancient Customs and Sports of the Shire," by Mr. Jewitt; and on the "Church of St. John, at Winchester," by Mr. Baigent.

On Thursday, Lincoln received the Association with honour, and Mr. E. J. Wilson, the well-known architectural antiquary, being mayor, they had the advantage of his knowledge. The death of the Duke of Hamilton, father-in-law of the president, having compelled the Duke of Newcastle to absent himself, Mr. Heywood, M.P. took his place, and a general examination of the city was made. In the cathedral Mr. Asphigal gave some particulars of the structure, and Mr. O'Connor read a paper on the stained-glass windows there. Archdeacon Bonney entertained part of the members, and the corporation the remainder. At the meeting held in Newark afterwards, papers "on the Siege Piece struck at Newark," and "on the Churches of Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire," were read by Mr. W. D. Haggard, and by Mr. C. Wickes. The latter

paper was illustrated by some beautifully-executed drawings of the principal churches in the two counties. Mr. Heywood also read a paper prepared by the Rev. J. F. Dimock, giving a history of the collegiate church of Southwell.

The buildings of Newark came in for their share of examination on Friday, and at twelve o'clock a large body went off to Southwell Minster, of which very interesting structure particulars have been given in *THE BUILDER*. The public dinner took place on their return to Newark, when Mr. Heywood, M.P.; Mr. Vernon, M.P.; Mr. Barrow, M.P.; Sir Henry Dillon, Archdeacon Wilkins, and others, addressed the meeting. Mr. Planché made a particularly happy and effective address, wherein he said that they might be accused of going about seeking for what they could devour, and they had been sneered at as persons who were anxious for lunch and by no means forgetful of dinner. Now liberality and openhandedness were, no doubt, characteristics of the English gentry; but if the members of that association were mere loiterers, or inquisitive tourists at best, the doors of their mansions, they might rest assured, would not be thrown open to them as if the Sovereign knocked at them, and the members would not be feasted as if the Sovereign were at their head. It was as humble ministers of science and labourers in the cause of knowledge, that they were received as they had been; and whilst they continued earnestly and seriously to work out their objects, he was convinced they would have the same honours paid to them by the noblemen and gentlemen of England. Like the Romans, that great people whose footsteps it was one of their duties to trace, and who made war not by the sword only, but by the pencil and the chisel, their association, too, made war upon barbarism.

A public breakfast on Saturday, with various votes of thanks, closed a very successful and interesting week.

COMPETITION AMONG BUILDERS.

SCARCELY a week passes by without the columns of *THE BUILDER* containing some reference to the practice of competition amongst architects, a practice which all your correspondents agree in deprecating. I wish to call your attention to the fact, that all the arguments used against that practice as extended to architects, apply with equal force to the one of competition amongst builders, and that all the arguments in favour of the latter apply with equal force in favour of the former. I must be understood as confining my proposition to this, without in any way entering into the broader questions of the superiority of competition over the new theory of association, or the still more novel principles involved in Mr. F. O. Ward's admirable treatise on distribution.

Firstly, then, it is urged as *infra dig.* and an offence against the general body, to enter into a pounds, shillings, and pence competition with other architects. Time was when it would have been an offence punishable by expulsion for one of the members of the guild and fraternity of builders, or masons as they then were, to have undersold his fellow-member. Now this "professional etiquette" and dignity is nothing more than a moral quail, and so surely as increasing population and the also increasing morbid desire for cheapness in the community have swept away guilds and introduced competition amongst the builders, so surely will the same causes produce, with even greater swiftness, the same effects amongst architects who encourage and extend a system towards those whom they employ, which they dread to see introduced by those who employ them.

If I were to urge that, by seeking to obtain a low estimate for the works they propose to execute, they rob themselves of their just profits by a diminished per centage, I should probably be told, firstly, that that was a consideration beneath an architect's notice; and that, secondly, to get work executed at a cheap rate was a good way of getting increased business. With regard to the first, I will, to